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Summary record of the 46th meeting
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President: Ms. Chatardová (Vice-President) ..... (Czechia)

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In the absence of Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Ms. Chatardová (Czechia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

Agenda item 5: High-level segment (*continued*) (E/2017/33, E/2017/64, E/2017/66, E/2017/69, and E/2017/72)

(a) Ministerial meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (*continued*) (A/71/976-E/2017/79)

General debate (*continued*)

1. **The President** invited the ministerial meeting to resume its general debate on the theme "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world".

2. **Mr. Alemu** (Ethiopia), Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations, speaking on behalf of the Group of Friends of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, said that Sustainable Development Goal 9, on industry, innovation and infrastructure, had a key role to play in sustainable development: countries and regions that successfully developed their manufacturing sector made spectacular progress in poverty reduction. Since, at the current pace, Goal 9 was unlikely to be achieved by 2030, there were fewer prospects of achieving the greater objective of eradicating poverty by that date. It was therefore critical for the international community, including the United Nations system, to help the least developed countries to overcome the obstacles on that path to their economic transformation by supporting investment promotion for all, private sector development and technology and knowledge transfer.

3. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), as the lead agency for the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016-2025), was called on to spearhead inclusive and sustainable industrial development for all. It also assisted developing countries in designing and implementing industrial policies and enhancing local productive capacities and entrepreneurship. Despite the unique role of UNIDO, its membership had been decreasing over the past years. The Group of Friends therefore supported the call by the President of the UNIDO Industrial Development Board to the President of the Council for the high-level political forum on sustainable development to consider ways of reversing that trend and strengthening global political and financial support for inclusive and sustainable industrialization.

4. **Mr. Kouyialis** (Cyprus), Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, said that General Assembly resolution 70/1, setting out the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, was the bedrock for the future development of all countries. The universal albeit non-binding character of that Agenda, directed primarily towards the eradication of poverty in all its forms, placed a responsibility on all nations, rich or poor, small or large. Cyprus was concentrating its efforts on the Sustainable Development Goals where there was still work to be done, relating primarily to issues such as good health and well-being, decent work and economic growth and industry, innovation and infrastructure. Significant progress had been made in most of the other Goals, through the implementation either of European Union policies or of national strategies. Cyprus also had an important role to play regionally towards the achievement of a number of the Goals, especially Goal 14 on seas and oceans. It was fulfilling that role by joining with Greece and Israel in addressing marine pollution from accidental oil spills and would soon be taking similar measures in cooperation with Egypt.

5. **Mr. Shekarabi** (Sweden), Minister for Public Administration, said that his country was in a strong position to be a doer and show leadership at the international level. Its feminist foreign policy sought to strengthen the rights, representation and resources of women based on knowledge of their realities. His Government would continue to be a strong advocate of women's sexual and reproductive rights as well as gender equality and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights. It promoted access to climate financing for least developed countries and small island developing States and was the largest contributor per capita to the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund and the Global Environment Facility. It was committed to contributing 1 per cent of Sweden's gross national income to official development assistance (ODA). Leadership meant sharing the burden; it also meant working with others in partnership. Partnerships were at the heart of the 2030 Agenda, exemplified by the growing cooperation between countries following the recent United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, co-hosted by Fiji and Sweden in New York.

6. **Mr. García** (Uruguay), Minister of Budget and Planning, said that, by virtue of the global nature of the 2030 Agenda, all countries, regardless of their size, could impact the well-being of all through their efforts

to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The 17 Goals shared two key characteristics: they were cross-cutting, addressing economic, social, cultural, political and environmental issues; they looked to 2030 and thus extended across governmental cycles. In Uruguay, they were being pursued as a matter of State policy and, as such, were viewed not as a responsibility of Government but rather as a countrywide responsibility. A broad social dialogue on the subject had been taking place in the country through 2016 and was currently continuing in different forums with civil society organizations, public bodies, academia and the productive sector. All ministries were making their own contributions to policymaking for the implementation of the Goals, which required a collective effort and specialized inputs. He noted that development assistance for Latin America and the Caribbean had declined and that increased international and private sector support could play a critical role in the necessary capacity-building.

7. **Mr. Chinamasa** (Zimbabwe), Minister of Finance and Economic Development, said that his country was fully committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Sustainable Development Goals were an overall strategic development imperative for addressing core challenges and must be pursued globally. In Zimbabwe, the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the Goals had been mainstreamed into the national development plan, and especially into its poverty eradication strategy. The Ministry of Macroeconomic Planning and Investment Promotion was entrusted with coordinating efforts to achieve the Agenda, under the Office of the President. Partnerships were key, including at the international level and particularly with the United Nations system and the African Union.

8. **Mr. Lõhmus** (Estonia), Deputy Minister of Environment, said that efforts to achieve sustainability required an eco-innovative approach to production and consumption, especially with regard to plastics. Product transparency was also important, as open information about the chemicals used in products would meet the need to phase out hazardous substances in the interests of public health, the environment and recycling. The development of a digital society offered a key to innovative approaches for collaboration in all stages of global value chains and for open access to data. Estonia was a global leader in that area and recognized that smart e-solutions were not limited by physical borders. He cited the example of the global textile value chain and the challenges it faced in terms of pollution because of its actual and potential harm to the marine environment and to textile workers, 75 per cent of whom were women. The third meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly, to be held later in the year, should offer solution-oriented responses to that problem.

9. **Ms. Navarro** (Panama), Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs and International Cooperation, said that, on the basis of the 2030 Agenda, Panama had put in place a State agenda to combat multidimensional poverty and follow up on the Sustainable Development Goals. It had thereby undertaken to put the country's resources, capacities and strategic geographical position at the service of all its inhabitants. One illustration of her Government's efforts in that regard was the significant reduction in poverty and its focus on improving the well-being of the population, particularly those most in need. It had also taken steps, in terms both of legal structures and of financial policy, to ensure that national resources were used effectively and transparently to advance the Agenda and to bring its legislation and practice swiftly into line with international norms on fiscal transparency and the prevention of money-laundering. In particular, it had taken measures to combat tax evasion and corruption and to strengthen international cooperation to that end. While her Government had learned from other countries in that respect, it was now in a position to share its own experience and good practices with other members of the international community, within the framework of the 2030 Agenda. A target of particular significance at the present time was the creation of greater opportunities for women and girls in the country, for participation in economic life and for access to positions of leadership.

10. **Mr. Marcondes de Carvalho** (Brazil), Vice-Minister of Environment, Energy, Service and Technology of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that his Government had established a national governance framework for the Sustainable Development Goals based on inclusiveness, a multi-stakeholder approach and parity between governmental and non-governmental representation. Having aligned its current four-year plan with the targets and indicators for the Goals, the next step would be to prioritize public policies that would lead to their achievement. In Brazil, the 2030 Agenda was regarded as a collective national endeavour requiring the engagement of all: Government, civil society, the private sector and academia. Not leaving anyone behind meant making sure that everyone was on board.

11. Brazil had been through trying times marked by a deep recession from which it was only just beginning to recover. Congress had approved a number of pieces of legislation that would help to restore order to public

finances and were expected to translate into higher investment and better economic performance, with a positive impact on employment. His Government was thus seeking to adjust its actions to the new vision of development embodied in the 2030 Agenda, which provided countries individually and collectively with new opportunities that they could not afford to miss.

12. **Ms. Agosto** (Argentina), Executive Secretary of the National Council for Coordination of Social Policies, said that her Government's top priority was the eradication of poverty under Sustainable Development Goal 1. Latin America was indeed the region of the world most marked by inequality which, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda, must be eliminated both within and between countries. Argentina had also been particularly active in combating the effects of climate change, promoting gender equality and empowering women and all vulnerable groups to make them true agents and beneficiaries of development.

13. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda required strong coordination between the Government and other stakeholders, including provincial governorships, private entrepreneurs, civil society and academia. The full participation of all was necessary, but at the same time efforts must continue to promote partnerships for improved policymaking and tangible results. She reaffirmed her country's commitment to implementing the Agenda, noting that it rested on requirements of financing, cooperation, national capacity-building and technology transfer, particularly to developing countries.

14. **Mr. Mohamed** (Sudan), State Minister of Welfare and Social Security, said that his Government's sustainable development programme had been integrated into national strategies and plans, alongside efforts to achieve the remaining Millennium Development Goals. Steps taken to eradicate poverty included the adoption of a five-year economic reform programme, microfinancing projects aimed at creating job opportunities and the establishment of a health insurance fund for the poor. A presidential initiative on food security and a zero hunger campaign had received support from international financial institutions. With regard to data collection, the results of a household survey would be released shortly, a population and agriculture survey was being organized and a civil registry was being compiled in order to provide every citizen with an identity.

15. The imposition of unilateral economic sanctions on the Sudan in 1997 had hindered the development and prosperity of its people, while the country's foreign debt burden had prevented it from benefiting from international development assistance despite meeting all the conditions of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. The influx of refugees from neighbouring countries and the internal displacement resulting from such climatic phenomena as drought and desertification further limited the country's capacities, hence the need for external assistance.

16. **Ms. El Ouafi** (Morocco), Secretary of State to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development, said that Morocco was fully engaged in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in a world convulsed by complex problems in dire need of solutions. By adopting an integrated, open model of economic growth, her Government aimed to make a successful democratic transition. Its new constitution enshrined the right of every citizen to development and life in a healthy environment; a framework law on the environment and sustainable development laid the groundwork for the national sustainable development strategy. Increasing the proportion of renewable energy in power generation to 52 per cent by 2030 was part of the country's plan to establish a green economy. Efforts were under way to combat discrimination against women, achieve gender equality and provide universal health care and education.

17. **Mr. Muharemi** (Croatia), Assistant Minister for Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, said that, as a Mediterranean country, Croatia assigned high priority to Sustainable Development Goal 14 on life below water. His Government commended Fiji and Sweden for co-hosting the recent United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and hoped that the momentum thereby generated would be maintained for the benefit of the world's oceans and seas and all who depended on them. Marine and coastal systems in Croatia had been preserved but faced multiple threats in the form of growing urbanization, land-based pollution, overfishing and climate change. There was therefore a need to continue to increase levels of knowledge, to improve data quality through scientific research and to introduce new marine technologies.

18. Croatia welcomed the high-level political forum's focus at its current session on poverty eradication and the promotion of prosperity, for which peace was a prerequisite. His Government also attached particular importance to Goals 3 and 2; it was directly involved in the development of European Union guidance on the facilitation of food donations.

19. **Mr. Doyle** (Ireland), Minister of State for Food, Forestry and Horticulture, said that the 2030 Agenda call to leave no one behind also required that those who were furthest behind should be reached first. The primary concern should therefore be countries affected by fragility and conflict where extreme poverty continued to grow. The Irish Government, which had played a significant part in the 2030 Agenda negotiations, recognized the need for a holistic response to meet the interwoven global challenges and had adopted an approach aimed at addressing domestic issues while supporting regional and global solutions abroad. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade would support the efforts of developing countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and would continue to provide assistance to least developed countries through Irish Aid, the Irish development cooperation programme. The structure adopted by Ireland for the realization of the Goals allowed individual government departments to take ownership of those Goals most relevant to them and ensured that civil society played a key role in monitoring and achieving them and that national and global policies for the Goals were mutually supporting. Within the framework of the Goals, Ireland would continue to focus on the underlying causes of poverty and insecurity, within European Union discussions, through its work with partner Governments and through close engagement with the United Nations and other multilateral institutions.

20. Leaving no one behind meant combating climate change and ending poverty together, as the two issues were inextricably linked and were integral to sustainable development. The effects of climate change were felt most acutely in fragile contexts and by the most marginalized and vulnerable members of society, adding to the challenges faced by poor communities. Ireland would continue to seek to help such communities to adapt and to end extreme poverty, hunger and undernutrition by 2030.

21. **Mr. Dancs** (Hungary), Deputy Secretary of State for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, said that the greatest challenge facing the world today was to end poverty globally, since failure to do so would jeopardize the future course of world development. Hungary was firmly committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda and had put in place effective cross-ministry coordination to that end, while developing national policies and strategies to ensure the country's sustainable future. That commitment was also reflected at the regional level in the various conferences it had organized, including the two Budapest Water Summits, in 2013 and 2016, and other conferences on topics of key importance for accelerating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. At the domestic level, his Government had introduced new policies aimed, in particular, at improving the balance between work and family life by promoting day-care facilities, developing infant vaccination campaigns and expanding health-care networks; moreover, it was engaged in efforts to promote gender equality and empower women, as a precondition for poverty reduction. Hungry was also dedicated to helping countries escape from the poverty trap and, in that spirit, had significantly increased its contribution to the World Food Programme.

22. **Mr. Amos** (Canada), Member of Parliament, said that the 2030 Agenda was the defining global framework of the age and that Canada was fully committed to implementing it both at home and abroad. His Government's domestic priorities were well aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, as illustrated by its efforts to reduce social inequality, build infrastructure, renew relationships with indigenous peoples and promote gender equality and women's empowerment. Indeed, Goal 5, on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, had guided a number of measures taken by his Government and would be a preliminary plank of the new feminist international assistance policy of Canada. It would also drive progress on the other Goals, which explicitly recognized that the 2030 Agenda could not be achieved if half the world's population were excluded from decision-making, power and opportunities. Goal 5 would thus be at the heart of Canadian international assistance efforts, which would be directed towards supporting sexual and reproductive health and rights, combating sexual and gender-based violence, advancing women's economic rights and equal access to economic resources and promoting human rights, the rule of law and the voice of women as agents of change. Canada was also firmly committed to addressing climate change and encouraging a global shift towards a more sustainable, climate-resilient economy, including through the implementation of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and had adopted a federal sustainable development strategy, which addressed the environmental aspects of the Goals.

23. Since it was clear that ODA would not suffice to meet the financing needs of the 2030 Agenda, such assistance should be used in innovative ways to unlock new resources that would enable the Goals to be achieved. Canada had increased its commitment to meeting that challenge and, jointly with Jamaica, was leading the Group of Friends on Financing the

Sustainable Development Goals, which was seeking new sources of public, private and philanthropic financing.

24. **Ms. Cook** (United States of America), Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Organizations, said that her delegation welcomed United Nations efforts to make the entire system more transparent, accountable and fit for purpose to meet development objectives. The Organization should adopt an inclusive approach to those efforts and embrace input and leadership from all stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society and academia. It needed to find a way of doing business that would cut unnecessary costs and lead to greater impact. Within the United Nations development system, leadership and coordination in country could be improved. Resources should be used in a more efficient manner through common service platforms and reduction of the overlaps and duplication in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and regional economic commissions, and across negotiations and publications. The tired and stale debates at United Nations Headquarters must come to an end, as they diverted attention from helping people in need. In that connection, the work and processes of such bodies as the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly Main Committees must be updated. Quality data had a key role in driving good decision-making and progress in the development arena. In spite of the long and challenging road ahead, the signs of initial progress marked by collaboration, inclusive stakeholder involvement and innovative and entrepreneurial initiatives were heartening.

25. **Mr. Nyakera** (Kenya), Principal Secretary, State Department for Planning, Ministry of Devolution, said that the Kenya Vision 2030, his country's long-term development programme, mirrored the 2030 Agenda and was being implemented in five-year, medium-term segments. Economic empowerment programmes and cash transfers targeted particular groups, ensuring that the needs of all citizens were met. In conjunction with civil society, his Government had used social media and other means to raise public awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals. To ensure universal access to comprehensive health care, the reformed National Hospital Insurance Fund provided free maternal health care in all public health facilities. Kiror, or homes where pregnant women were accommodated ahead of delivery, had been set up near health facilities in remote areas. The Beyond Zero campaign had delivered mobile clinics to all county referral hospitals in the country. Disparities among regions had been addressed by decentralizing services and resources and establishing an equalization fund to support previously marginalized regions.

26. Advances in information and communications technology had made service delivery more efficient, enabling citizens to fund health care through mobile technologies and expanding financial inclusion, which had increased by nearly 10 per cent since 2013. In order to harness the country's demographic dividend, his Government had put in place programmes to enable the young to participate in productive economic activities, including investment in providing health and education services to vulnerable groups. It had also established a credit guarantee scheme to facilitate financial access to micro-, small and medium enterprises, which employed over 14 million Kenyans and accounted for over a quarter of the gross domestic product. Lastly, Huduma centres brought a wide array of Government services to the people at greatly reduced cost.

27. **Ms. Sabelova** (Slovakia), Director-General, Office of the Government, said that Member States had no time to waste in tackling the ambitious sustainable development agenda. The voluntary national reviews yielded valuable lessons and inspiration for the task at hand, which would require system-wide action, innovations in policymaking and a new approach to global responsibilities and local opportunities. Slovakia was prepared to bear its share of responsibility and act in solidarity with the most vulnerable. In that regard, her country's own transformation process had relevant insights to offer. Her Government had adopted a strategy to address the external implications of national policies and actions for its global commitment to sustainable development and had prepared a road map for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in broad consultations with academics and non-governmental organizations. The national framework aimed at engaging all stakeholders in efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, giving civil society pride of place. Fostering social innovation and citizen activism and engaging the most vulnerable were crucial steps towards achieving progress towards sustainable development, as was enhancing the accountability of institutions. A complex review mechanism was being introduced to ensure that national resources were used as effectively and efficiently as possible, with a view to sustaining results over the long term. In closing, her Government would remain actively engaged in implementing the 2030 Agenda and looked forward to reporting on its progress the following year.

28. **Mr. Jinkyu** (Republic of Korea), Director-General of the Development Cooperation Bureau of the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that at the previous year's high-level political forum, the Republic of Korea had presented its voluntary national review and had received valuable feedback from participants on how to coordinate the domestic implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Its National Commission on Sustainable Development was at the centre of efforts to improve domestic implementation, including by mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals into policy guidelines. Internationally, his Government was working to establish a results evaluation framework that would systematically link the Goals with the 10 core areas of ODA.

29. His country's contributions in 2016 of $574 million to the least developed countries, $626 million to fragile countries and $50 million to refugees, with another $230 million pledged for the latter by 2018, attested to an abiding interest in providing development and humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable. However, steps to combat poverty would fall short in the absence of justice and equality of opportunities; his country was thus equally committed to helping fragile countries strengthen their social and economic institutions through its strategy to support conflict-affected and fragile countries. The Republic of Korea welcomed the contributions and participation of the private sector and civil society to development cooperation and would partner with them to promote inclusive business models and improve monitoring of government policies.

30. **Mr. Briscoe** (United Kingdom), Deputy Director and Head of Global Partnerships, Department for International Development, said that the United Kingdom would continue to provide strong leadership on the urgent task of eradicating extreme poverty. At the heart of its domestic and international efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda was a continued commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of gross national income on ODA. However, Governments alone could not deliver the Sustainable Development Goals; promoting prosperity went hand in hand with eradicating poverty. The new Economic Development Strategy of the Department for International Development highlighted greater economic inclusion of the poorest as essential for sustained growth. Private sector actions to stimulate growth and invest in the achievement of the Goals were just as vital. Moreover, the multilateral system's response to rising global challenges would also determine the success of the overall effort.

31. Guided by the promise to leave no one behind, his Government's aid strategy would continue to target the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. The United Kingdom would also strengthen its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, areas in which challenges persisted, including by championing sexual and reproductive health and rights and by enabling the world's poorest women to take control of their lives. United Kingdom aid would provide 20 million women with voluntary contraception. His Government was also increasing its focus on such critical and under-prioritized areas as disability, child exploitation and modern forms of slavery. Its Data Disaggregation Action Plan made it possible to identify and locate the most marginalized and better track collective progress.

32. The Champions of Women's Economic Empowerment, a group of 17 Member States co-chaired by the United Kingdom and Costa Rica, had underscored the clear link between equality and sustainable development and had called for more to be done to address the large gender gaps in economic opportunities and outcomes throughout the world. The actions of Governments should generate structural changes, increase productivity and change power relations. Member States should consider the recommendations of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment in their national 2030 Agenda implementation plans.

33. **Ms. Tkhilava** (Georgia), Head, Department of Environmental Policy and International Relations, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, said that since presenting its voluntary national review at the previous year's high-level political forum, the number of Sustainable Development Goals and targets that her Government had identified as national priorities had increased. Georgia had established a coordination council for the Goals and was developing an electronic monitoring system to distribute information on how public agencies were delivering on specific targets. As business was a key driver of economic development, her country was working to improve the investment environment and had established a high technology and innovation development centre to allow creative thinkers to develop their entrepreneurial talents. In 2016 Georgia had hosted the eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, which had helped foster global action on promoting a green economy.

34. Measures taken by Georgia to alleviate extreme poverty included the provision of cash benefits for the poorest citizens through a targeted social assistance programme. A universal health-care programme launched in 2013 had significantly expanded publicly-financed coverage, including emergency care,

oncology and maternity services. To address Goal 2, on zero hunger, her country's agricultural development strategy for 2015 to 2020 would aim to foster competitiveness in the agrifood sector. Promoting gender equality, empowering women and combating violence against them remained top priorities for her Government. In order to meet the need for data, the statistical research capacities of Georgia would need to be upgraded through additional training, financing and human capital.

35. In closing, she lamented that her Government had been deprived of the opportunity to implement the 2030 Agenda in the occupied regions of Abkhazia, the Tskhinvali region and South Ossetia.

36. **Ms. Simane** (Latvia), Advisor, Cross-sectoral Coordination Centre of the Cabinet of Ministers, said that Governments should bear full responsibility for implementing the 2030 Agenda by mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals into their planning and budgeting and ensuring participation. Taking responsibility also meant making difficult decisions concerning which initiatives should receive support. Latvija2030, her country's long-term sustainable development plan, had been formulated in 2010, and its medium-term plan through 2020 defined the priorities and related performance indicators needed to achieve the long-term vision. The country's cross-sectoral coordination centre, the leading institution for medium- and long-term planning, was conducting a midterm impact assessment that year, incorporating innovations from the Goals. Pending governmental approval, the assessment would form the basis of the voluntary national review that Latvia would present in 2018.

37. Her Government supported policy coherence and believed that pragmatic and responsible governing entailed making effective use of digital solutions and other resources, in addition to making difficult choices. Building synergies across relevant policy areas would be crucial in delivering on the 2030 Agenda, as would stronger United Nations action and stakeholder accountability. Latvia therefore welcomed the Secretary-General's call for bold changes in the United Nations development system. As a strong supporter of Goal 5 on gender equality and Goal 16 on peaceful and inclusive societies as means of accelerating the achievement of the remaining Goals, Latvia was committed to sharing its experience through development cooperation in order to strengthen the capacities of its partner countries in various areas, in particular supporting public sector reforms, combating corruption and fostering inclusive economic growth.

38. **Mr. Merzak** (Algeria), Director-General of International Economic and Social Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that the consensus reached on the 2030 Agenda and other international frameworks on sustainable development should enable the international community to overcome inertia and mobilize its resources to achieve development for all. Particular attention should be devoted to the needs of the African continent, where 40 per cent of the population continued to live in extreme poverty. Moreover, developing countries should benefit from technology transfer under favourable terms and capacity-building and should be afforded a more prominent role in the governance of international financial institutions.

39. Algeria had achieved most of the Millennium Development Goals early and had virtually eradicated extreme poverty, which stood at 0.8 per cent at present. Its social security system covered 80 per cent of the population, including the unemployed. His Government would consolidate its development gains by putting in place national policies and strategies aimed at human and social development, including by providing free education, professional training and health care; building affordable, decent housing; expanding social safety nets; and extending financial assistance to unemployed youth.

40. **Mr. Chakroun** (France), Deputy Head of the Development Division at the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, said that the flurry of activity at the high-level political forum, with 43 Governments presenting their programmes for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, attested to the enthusiasm around the 2030 Agenda. As one of the first countries to present a voluntary national review, France was determined to make progress on the key issues under consideration at the forum. Since 2016 his Government had enabled stakeholders from all walks of life to coalesce around the Goals; that community was presently debating how to select the Goal indicators that were most relevant to the French context.

41. The 2030 Agenda constituted a new social contract that aimed to make development models compatible with economic growth and the protection of national resources. The very survival of humankind hinged on the success of that transformation, as there was no plan – or planet – B. The French President had therefore called for a global mobilization on climate to be applied to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and for the formulation of a new global compact on the environment. The fundamental principles of international law concerning the environment, while

already enshrined in various conventions, would emerge more clearly and forcefully if set out in a single document. He underscored his Government's commitment to strengthening synergies among the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement, and to supporting coalitions on climate action that would propose tangible solutions for achieving the Goals.

42. **Ms. Mejía Vélez** (Colombia), Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations, said that it would be impossible to achieve sustainable development while half of the population continued to be denied the full enjoyment of human rights and opportunities, including sexual and reproductive rights. Empowering women economically and politically would bring about a more dynamic global economy. She reiterated her Government's commitment to gender equity as a cross-cutting element in efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

43. Noting the need for a global environment that promoted financial flows for development, she called for a greater commitment to climate financing and technology transfer to developing countries on favourable terms. Middle-income countries like Colombia continued to rely on ODA and on South-South and triangular cooperation as they strove to achieve truly inclusive sustainable development. Strategic support would also be required from civil society, the private sector and academia.

44. **Mr. Liu** Jieyi (China), Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations, said that countries should align their national development strategies with the 2030 Agenda and other frameworks in order to help each other move forward, embracing a win-win international paradigm. A new type of global partnership for development should be established, with North-South cooperation as the primary channel and South-South cooperation as a supplement. Developed countries should honour their development financing commitments to developing countries. For its part, the United Nations should enhance its development system and perform its coordination role; in particular, the role of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs should be strengthened. Building an open and inclusive world economy and improving global economic governance would be crucial to enabling all people to share in the fruits of development.

45. China had strengthened its strategic alignment and had integrated its implementation of the 2030 Agenda with that of its thirteenth five-year plan and medium- and long-term national development strategies, guided by the concepts of innovation, coordination, promotion of a green economy and benefit sharing. That balanced approach to development had yielded results early on. In 2016, the country's gross domestic product had grown by 6.7 per cent, comprising nearly a third of all global economic growth, and the number of rural people living in poverty had decreased significantly. The China-United Nations peace and development fund had been operating well, with a focus on reducing poverty in developing countries. China had recently hosted the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, which dovetailed with the 2030 Agenda. His Government was determined to work with the international community to promote implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.